



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 24 2008

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. John L. Howard, Jr.  
Chair  
National Advisory Council for  
Environmental Policy and Technology  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Howard:

I thank the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology and its Sustainable Water Infrastructure workgroup for the recommendations provided for Phase I of their charge. The findings and recommendations give a truly comprehensive view of the issues before the group, and EPA has been striving to incorporate them into its efforts.

The Office of Water has carefully reviewed the report's 26 recommendations and continues to incorporate them into its policies and programs. For example, one of the main points emphasized throughout the report is the need for EPA to redouble its efforts at outreach and marketing of watershed approaches to infrastructure. We believe that your comments hold true for the entire Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative, and we are working with our partners to expand outreach and the mechanisms through which we get feedback on its effectiveness. For instance, the Office of Water is:

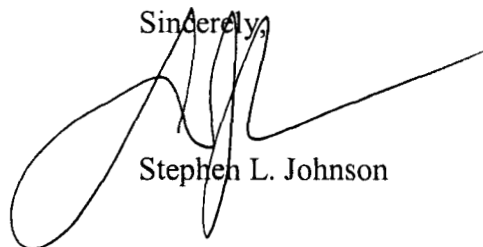
- Expanding its collaboration with the Local Government Advisory Committee to develop strategies and tools to reach local officials;
- Engaging the participants in the National Estuary Program to enlist their help in promoting watershed approaches to infrastructure using their extensive capacity for outreach and fostering collaboration;
- Pilot testing customer satisfaction surveys in review of select products we complete; and
- Securing consultant services to develop a formal marketing plan for the SI Initiative.

Several of the recommendations also pointed to ways EPA could work better with the U.S. Department of Transportation on watershed issues. To that end, the Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds is establishing a liaison who can serve as a focal point in our interactions with DOT. This liaison will be tasked with expanding and improving the effectiveness of our collaborations with Transportation.

In addition, the recommendations pointed to the need for improving and centralizing leadership on the Watershed Pillar, which was previously shared among several people. The Office of Water has now assigned a single person to the task to improve its internal organization of efforts under the Pillar.

While these are just a few examples, know that EPA will continue to incorporate the workgroup's ideas and thinking into its efforts to promote watershed approaches to infrastructure. I greatly appreciate the effort and thought that went into NACEPT's report and look forward to the workgroup's report on Part II of the charge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Johnson', written over the word 'Sincerely'.

Stephen L. Johnson

John -  
Again, thank  
for your leadership!  
Steve